

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023  
ADMIN CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Robinson, Commissioner Langhals, Commissioner Turimella,  
Commissioner Maingu, Commissioner Webster

ABSENT: Chairperson Styka

STAFF: Human Services Specialist Love

BOARD LIASON: Trustee Wilson

PUBLIC:

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A: Vice-Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

A: Request for the commissioners receive the names of the 41 organizations referred to in section 6:a:i of the July minutes. Specialist Love will get those to the commissions in the next week.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Langhals moves to approve the July 12, 2023, minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Turimella.  
Motion Carried 5-0.**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A: Sparrow Mobile Health Clinic Update

1. There will be a clinic at Cedar Creek Apartments on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 P.M.

B: Five Wishes Program

1. Joanne Eason gave a Five Wishes presentation at Grange Acres on August 16<sup>th</sup>, there were 22 people in attendance.
2. We have 50 complimentary booklets still available for distribution.
3. The Meridian Senior Center has asked that Specialist Love do a presentation in February 2024.

C: Operation Gratitude

1. Commissioner Webster would like to reach out to the managers at Grange Acres and Carraige Lane to see how many veterans live at each location.
2. Boxes are prepared by Operation Gratitude and include things like bracelets, Kleenex, combs, hats, scarves etc.
3. These free boxes can be then given to veterans to thank and acknowledge them.

**Commissioner Maingu moves to approve moving forward with Operation Gratitude, contingent on the shipping cost. Seconded by Commissioner Turimella. Motion Carried 5-0.**

D: Culvers Share Night

1. Took place on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 P.M. Great event!
2. All commissioners were in attendance.
3. We received \$302.57 from Culvers and \$219.24 in additional donations.
4. Special thanks to Frank Walsh for his \$200.00 donation.
5. Discussion about how well it went and a desire to do it again next year.

E: Backpacks

1. Kiwanis donated \$2500.00 to the backpack program. They have set aside the same amount for 2024. We will reach out to them in early summer 2024.
2. We packed 240 backpacks. They cost just over \$10.00 for a backpack. We packed all in under 30 minutes with many volunteers.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

A: St. Lukes Coat Drive

1. Coat drive going on now. Boxes are available for collection in the Municipal Building. Coats will also be accepted at the Meridian Recycling Day on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Coat drive 9/11-10/6.

B: Thanksgiving & Holiday Food Baskets

1. The sponsorship and request forms are LIVE and out in the community.
2. Specialist Love has applied for a grant to help with the cost of food that Meridian Cares might need to help with.
3. The CRC is welcome to volunteer and help distribute food that Rotary will be providing for holiday food baskets. Rotary has committed to purchasing food for 100 Grange Acres households and will be distributing food the week of 12/11/23.
4. If individuals would like to sponsor families, they can use the sponsorship form and return to Meridian Cares.

C: BASTAS (Be a Santa to a Senior)

1. This organization is run by Home Instead Inc. This is a nationwide program that provides gifts and companionship to seniors.
2. Darla (the previous Human Services Specialist) was very involved with BASTAS and donations came into Meridian Cares specifically earmarked for BASTAS.
3. We have the Town Hall room booked for their packing days on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. Human Services Specialist Love presented the board with a check request form to distribute \$4,135.08 to Home Instead for their BASTAS program. This money was originally given with specific instructions to use for this program and should be distributed so the original intent of the money can be used.
5. Board Liaison Wilson inquired if Home Instead was for profit and if that affected how we distributed the money.

**Commissioner Webster moves to approve the transfer of \$4,135.08 from the Meridian Cares fund to Home Instead Inc. for the Be a Santa to a Senior Program, contingent upon the approval of the Finance Director. Seconded by Commissioner Langhals.**

**VOICE VOTE            YEAS:** Commissioner Robinson, Langhals, Turimella, Maingu, Webster  
**NAYS: None**  
**Motion carried: 5-0**

D: Halloween Extravaganza at the Okemos Library

1. Would Meridian Cares like to host a car at Trunk or Treat October 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 P.M.
2. When the minutes are sent Human Services Love will see if anyone from the CRC would like to participate.
3. The library has offered to supply us with candy.

E: Fundraising Ideas

1. Spoke at the Haslett Women's Club Meeting and they gave us a donation of \$500.00.
2. Baby Bottle Boomerang, discussion more information to come.
3. Fundraiser at Dusty's. Marna is going to make the connection with Matt Rhodes to see if we can do it again.
4. Discussion took place about how the Meridian Cares fund works. There is still a lot of confusion about fundraising, budgeted money etc. Specialist Love will make some connections with the Finance Department to get more clarity and bring the information back to the board in October.

## **6. HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT**

1. Human Services Specialist Love presented the July & August 2023 financial report.
2. All Agendas, minutes, and packets for 2022 and 2023 have been added to the website.
3. "Leverage" on the financial report refers to money given by partners such as SVDP, DHHS, SVDP store etc. or the resident.

## **7. BOARD LIASON REPORT**

1. The Specialty grocery store with the initials T.J. pulled their building permit.
2. Woodward Way, the Senior Housing on Sirhal Drive opened. There are current openings.
3. Community Center/Senior Center
  - a. Planning and investigation is ongoing.
  - b. Listening sessions are going on now to gauge the community interest.
  - c. Funding is the focus right now.

## **8. OPEN FORUM**

## **9. ADJOURNEMENT**

Vice-Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:23 P.M. with no opposition.